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## ICELANDIC-AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS. 1903.

- Lögsberg*. Vol. 16. Edited by M. Paulson. Published weekly by The Lögsberg Printing and Publishing Co. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Folio.
- Heimskringla*. Vol. 17. Editor, B. L. Baldwinson. Published weekly by The Heimskringla News and Publishing Co. Winnipeg. Folio.
- Aldamót*. 12th year. Editor, Fr. J. Bergmann. Published annually by the Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod of America. Winnipeg. 175 pp. 8o.
- Sameiningin*. Vol. 17. Editor, Jón Bjarnason. Published monthly by O. S. Thorgeirsson. Winnipeg. 8o.
- Kennarinn*. Vol. 6. Editor, N. S. Thorláksson. (Published as supplement to *Sameiningin*.)
- Dagskrá*. New series, vol. 1. Editor, Sigurður Júlíus Johannesson. Published quarterly by the Jafnaðarmannafélag Íslendinga. Winnipeg. Small 8o.
- Freyja*. Vol. 6. Edited by Margrjet J. Benedictsson. Published monthly by The Freyja Printing and Publishing Co. Winnipeg. 8o.
- Almanak*. 9th year. Published annually by O. S. Thorgeirsson. Winnipeg. 115 pp. 8o.
- Almanak*. 4th year. Published annually by S. B. Benedictsson. Winnipeg. xii + 56 pp. Small 8o.
- Svava*. Vol. 6. Editor, G. M. Thompson. Published three times a month by The Svava Printing and Publishing Co. Gimli, Man. Small 8o.
- Vinland*. Vol. 2. Edited by Th. Thordarson and Björn B. Jónsson. Published monthly by G. B. Björnson. Minneota, Minnesota. 4o.

Iceland has contributed to the world's present population, in round numbers, 100,000 persons. Three-fourths of these maintain existence in the old home, and practically all of the remainder are living under somewhat more favorable circumstances in the New World. The emigration proper from Iceland to North America

was begun rather cautiously in 1870 by a few men who settled in Wisconsin. Two years later others ventured into Canada, where, in 1875, numbers of Icelanders chose new homes for their families in the Province of Manitoba. In the following years the stream of immigrants into the British provinces and into the states of Minnesota and North Dakota, in particular, increased greatly in volume, though in recent years it has very noticeably subsided. There are also colonies in the state of Washington, in the Canadian North-West Territories, and especially in Manitoba, where the Icelanders with their descendants number perhaps 10,000.<sup>1</sup> There are a dozen or more settlements in this province, the largest being in the city of Winnipeg, where the Icelandic population is 4000, and in the "Gimli Colony," or *Ný Island*, on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg, which numbers about 2500.

The Icelandic-Americans preserve the reputation of their people as one in which illiteracy is rarely found. As long ago as 1877, Lord Dufferin, then Governor-General of Canada, remarked in a public address in Winnipeg that he "hardly entered a hovel in Gimli which did not contain a library." Several Icelanders have been elected to seats in the legislatures of North Dakota and of Manitoba, and Icelandic names appear on the registers of many American colleges and universities.

To meet the immediate needs of these people there has been a considerable development in journalism on the new soil. In the list above appear the titles of the various publications now regularly appearing in Icelandic in America. Many of these are scarcely important enough to deserve comment here, though either *Lögberg* or *Heimskringla*, in addition to two or three of the best European Icelandic journals, would not be an unwise addition to any well-equipped Germanic library.

*Lögberg* is an eight-page weekly newspaper with a literary supplement. It was established in 1888 under the editorship of the well-known writer Einar Hjörleifsson. From 1895 to 1901 it was edited by the Hon. Sigtryggr Jónasson, a moving-spirit in the founding of the Gimli-Colony. The policy of *Lögberg* has been "to protect and further the interests of the Icelandic immigrants in this country, both north and south of the international boundary,

<sup>1</sup> 8271 by the census of 1900, but in the opinion of the chief census officer of the Province, this was below the actual number.

and to help them in their struggle to become good and worthy citizens." In Canadian politics it supports the Liberal party. *Lögberg* enjoys a large circulation both at home and in Europe.

The other important weekly newspaper, *Heimskringla*, has four pages in each issue, exclusive of supplements. Founded in 1886, it was conducted editorially in 1890 and 1891 by the lamented Gestur Pálsson. Publication was discontinued for some months previous to 1897, but the journal is now on a sound basis with a subscription-list of 2400. The editor and business manager, Mr. Baldwinson, was recently elected to the legislature of Manitoba by the Conservative party. The price of *Heimskringla* and of *Lögberg* is two dollars a year.

The excellently printed and carefully edited review, *Aldemót*, contains, besides religious articles and sermons, reviews of recent theological and secular books and periodicals. The editor, Fr. J. Bergmann, is a lecturer in the Icelandic Language and Literature in Wesley College, Winnipeg.

Another publication of the Lutheran Church is the neat sixteen-page magazine, *Sameiningin*. Sermons, religious poems, short articles, and miscellaneous personal and literary notes of interest to the members of the denomination make up the contents of each number. An eight-page supplement, *Kennarinn*, furnishes a commentary to the Sunday School lessons for the month.

After a rather unsettled existence in Iceland and in Canada, *Dagskrá* began to appear in July of this year as a neat little quarterly. The first number has 96 pages. *Dagskrá* is an "independent literary and critical journal, advocating reform along Socialistic lines." It advocates temperance and supports the work of the Independent Order of Good-Templars among the Icelanders.

*Freyja* is a popular magazine for women and the home. Each number contains about 48 pages. Circulation 1000.

The *Almanak* published by O. S. Thorgeirsson contains each year several instructive articles of a popular nature, one or more on the history of the various Icelandic settlements, a short story (generally a translation), brief obituaries of Icelandic-Americans, etc. The feature of the last issue is the account on pages 34-76 by Rev. Fr. J. Bergmann of the settling of Icelanders in Winnipeg and the Gimli Colony. Twenty pages of verse appear in the literary part of S. B. Benedictsson's *Maple Leaf Almanac*.

The interesting little magazine, *Svava*, is published three times a month, with 52 pages in each part. It contains original or translated articles on educational topics, popular science, biography, travel, etc., besides poems and short stories.

The only regular Icelandic publication in the United States is the recently established *Vinland*. The object of this journal, as expressed by one of the editors, "is to help our people to understand the conditions under which they now live, and to become good American citizens, while yet retaining whatever good they have as a distinct nationality." *Vinland* has been successful and was considerably enlarged after its first year.

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*Hrotsvithae Opera* recensuit et emendavit Paulus de Winterfeld (Scriptores rerum germanicarum in usum scholarum ex Monumentis Germaniae historicis separatim editi.), XXIV, 562 pp. Berlin, Weidmann. 12mo.

The merit of this new edition of Hrotsvith consists chiefly in the careful treatment and study of the text itself. The rimed prose of the plays may, at times, suggest a different typographical arrangement, but apart from this elusive and unimportant point von Winterfeld's text is probably definitive. Scattered through the introduction, notes and appendices there is also to be found much new information, chiefly on points of grammar and diction and sources. We regret all the more, that the editor who through long years of study has gained such a clear insight into the various phases of his subject, has not given us a synthetic characterization of Hrotsvith's personality and an appreciation of the artistic and cultural value of her work. To be sure, the tradition of the *Scriptores Rerum Germanicarum* and the very fact, that in accordance with the policy of the series, the editor himself uses the Latin language throughout his book, probably made the addition of such a general, orienting chapter impracticable, and we only hope, that von Winterfeld may soon take occasion to give us, in a more generally accessible form, his present views on a subject on which there is the greatest diversity of opinion among